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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,027	08/06/2003	Kazuhiro Takeuchi	0171-0999P	6968
2292	7590	09/27/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			SANDERS, KRIELLION ANTIONETTE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1714	
DATE MAILED: 09/27/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,027

Applicant(s)

TAKEUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Kriellion A. Sanders

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kani, US Patent No. 5,098,758.

Applicant's invention pertains to a molded friction material derived by curing a composition of a non-asbestos fibrous base, a binder, a filler and an abrasive that includes zirconium silicate beads.

Kani discloses a resin mold clutch facing that is heat-molded from a resin mold base member that forms a friction face, and a backup member.

The resin mold base member consists essentially of a matrix composed of a glass fiber and an aromatic polyamide fiber, an inorganic filler, a solid lubricant, and a resin binder.

The backup member consists essentially of a matrix composed of a glass strand or yarn and at least one strand or yarn selected from a group consisting of a rayon strand or yarn and an aromatic polyamide strand or yarn, and a binder adhered to the matrix, and is shaped in an spirally wound configuration.

As the inorganic filler constituting the resin mold base member, two types of fillers, i.e., a soft filler such as calcium carbonate and a hard filler such as zirconium silicate, may be used.

The average grain diameter of the zirconium silicate hard filler is from 50 to 500 micrometers.

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The content of the inorganic filler ranges from 5 to 15 volume % based on the total volume of the resin mold base member. See col. 2, line 53 through col. 5, line 43.

Each of applicant's claim limitations are clearly met by the reference.

3. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by EP 1 031 754.

4. EP 1 031 754 discloses a non-asbestos friction material that is made by molding and curing a composition comprising a fibrous base, an inorganic filler, an organic filler and a binder. The inorganic filler, typically zirconium silicate, has a 90% particle size of 0.1 to 8 μ m, a Mohs hardness of 6 to 8, and accounts for 0.1 to 10% by volume of the overall composition. The friction material is useful as brake linings and has a high braking effectiveness in normal use, a small speed spread, low change over time in braking effectiveness, and can prevent morning effect and jerky low-speed braking. See page 1, line 1 through page 4, line 34.

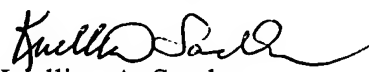
5. No patentable difference is readily ascertained between the invention of the reference and that of applicant's claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kriellion A. Sanders whose telephone number is 571-272-1122. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kriellion A. Sanders
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

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